

JUL 05 2006

Application No.: 09/805,555

Docket No.: SONY 3.0-019

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the pending final office action mailed on April 4, 2006. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for again signifying the allowable subject matter of claims 15 and 22-32 and 40. The present amendment is submitted to place the application in condition for immediate allowance in view of the Examiner's suggestion of allowable subject matter.

To this end, claim 40 has been amended to put it in independent form by including the features of now cancelled claim 1. Similarly, claims 2-5, 8, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended from depending from cancelled claim 1 to now depend from allowed claim 40. Accordingly, claims 2-14, 16 and 17 now properly depend from claim 40 and are therefore in condition for allowance. Claim 15 has been cancelled due to its duplication of the subject matter of claim 40.

In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicant has also amended claims 14 and 17 to clarify that the dependent claims are (and were) not intended to eliminate the subject matter of the parent claims but merely to further limit the parent claims by identifying certain pre-requisites that are checked before the claimed steps of the parent claims are performed.

Finally, while the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusions concerning rejections of the remaining claims, for purposes of advancing prosecution in an expeditious manner Applicant has cancelled those claims. Thus, as to the Examiner's assertions of non-patentability for the canceled claims, the amendments adopted herein are made without prejudice. Applicant may seek further protection for the subject matter disclosed in the application by way of continuation practice.

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For these reasons, Applicant submits that pending claims 40, 2-14, 16, 17 and 22-32 are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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